

March 2019

Carlsbad Reads Together

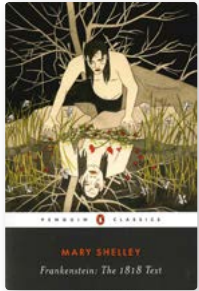
Community Reading Program



Carlsbad Reads Together brings community members together and engages them in discussion about the same selection of books at the same time.

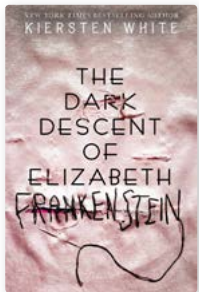
Join us in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's classic *Frankenstein* by reading *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein* by Kiersten White. Throughout March 2019, we'll host book discussions, author events with Kiersten White, movies and more. Sponsored by Friends of the Carlsbad Library.

About the 2019 Selections



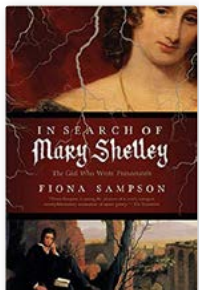
Frankenstein

Few creatures of horror have seized readers' imaginations and held them for so long as the anguished monster of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The story of Victor Frankenstein's terrible creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense.



The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein

The *Frankenstein* legend as you've never seen it before, told by New York Times bestselling author Kiersten White. You will not be able to put down this stunning and dark reimagining of the Mary Shelley classic told from the point of view of Elizabeth Frankenstein.



In Search of Mary Shelley

Coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein*, Fiona Sampson, a prize-winning poet, delivers a new biography of Mary Shelley, illuminating how a teenager came to write a novel so dark, mysterious, anguished and psychologically astute that it continues to resonate two centuries later.

About the Authors



Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

was born on August 30, 1797, in London, England. She married poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1816. Two years later, she published her most famous novel, *Frankenstein*. She wrote several other books, including *Valperga* (1823), *The Last Man* (1826), the autobiographical *Lodore* (1835) and the posthumously published *Mathilde*. Shelley died of brain cancer on Feb. 1, 1851, in London, England.



Kiersten White is the New York Times bestselling author of the *And I Darken* trilogy, the *Paranormalcy* trilogy, *Beanstalker and Other Hilarious Scarytales*, *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein*, *Slayer* and many other novels. Kiersten lives with her family in sunny

San Diego, where she perpetually lurks in the shadows. Visit her at www.kierstenwhite.com.



Fiona Sampson is a British poet and writer. She received a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to literature in the Queen's New Year's Honors in 2017. Her publications include 29 volumes of poetry, literary nonfiction and criticism.

Carlsbad Reads Together Events

Locations

- ◆ Carlsbad City Library 1775 Dove Lane
- ◆ Georgina Cole Library 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive
- ◆ Carlsbad City Library Learning Center 3368 Eureka Place

Admission is free for all events.

Book Discussions

Read one or more of the selected books and join us for a lively discussion.

Carlsbad City Library
Gowland Meeting Room

Wednesday, March 6, 2 p.m.

In Search of Mary Shelley: The Girl Who Wrote Frankenstein by Fiona Sampson

Monday, March 25, 7 p.m.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Georgina Cole Library
Community Room

Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m.

The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein by Kiersten White

Thursday, March 14, 2 p.m.

The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein by Kiersten White

Spanish Language Book Club at
Library Learning Center

Tuesday, March 19, 10 a.m.

Frankenstein o el moderno Prometeo by Mary Shelley

Carlsbad Film Series

Carlsbad City Library, Schulman Auditorium
1775 Dove Lane

Wednesday, March 13, 6 p.m.

Young Frankenstein (Comedy, 1974, PG, 1h 46m)

Wednesday, March 20, 6 p.m.

Victor Frankenstein (Drama, Sci-Fi, 2015, PG-13, 1h 50m)

Sunday, March 24, 1:30 p.m.

Frankenstein (Classic, Horror, 1931, not rated, 1h 10m)

Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m.

Frankenweenie (Animation, Comedy, 2012, PG, 1h 27m)

Author Talks With Kiersten White

Sunday, March 10, 2 – 3 p.m.

Carlsbad City Library Schulman Auditorium
1775 Dove Lane

Thursday, March 14, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Georgina Cole Library Community Room
1250 Carlsbad Village Drive

Kiersten White will discuss and sign her book *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein*. Barnes & Noble Oceanside will provide books for sale and signing.

All Things Frankenstein

Focus On: Finding Your

“Criminal and Insane” Ancestors

Tuesday, March 5 or March 19, 2 – 4 p.m.

Library Learning Center, Room 14

Inspired by Kiersten White’s tale of devotion and depravity, genealogy staff will conduct experiments and unearth clues for finding your “criminal and insane” ancestors in the library stacks. Sign up via the Genealogy webpage at carlsbadlibrary.org.

DIG: DNA Interest Group for Genetic Genealogy

Saturday, March 16, 1 – 4 p.m.

Georgina Cole Library Community Room

Learn how genealogy is harnessing the human genome and the technological power of DNA testing to piece together family trees during a demonstration of genetic genealogy websites. Attendees will also have an opportunity to collaborate during hands-on workshop.

Genealogy Program Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Carlsbad City Council Chamber

Like the heroine in *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein*, our family trees include strong women. Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew will share the stories of women who braved the hardships of open land acquired through the 1862 Homestead Act. Learn how these women shaped the Western United States and where to find your ancestors’ homestead records.

Closing Event: Frankenstein at 200

Sunday, March 31, 2 – 3 p.m.

Carlsbad City Library Schulman Auditorium

Join UCSB Professor of English Julie Carlson, Ph.D., who will discuss how a teenage girl brought a new writing genre, science fiction, to life. Professor Carlson is the author of *England’s First Family of Writers: Mary Wollstonecraft, William Godwin, Mary Shelley*.

Exploration HUB

Enjoy free classes in Dove Library's supercharged technology center. Register with your name, email address and valid Carlsbad City Library card at www.carlsbadca.gov/hub

Family classes are designed to bring children and parents/guardians together in the HUB. All other classes are for ages 13 and up.

Beginning Silhouette Cameo: Frankenstein Book Bag

Get crafty with the library's Silhouette Cameo, an electric cutting machine.

March 1, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

March 19, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

March 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

March 30, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Family Beginning Silhouette Cameo: Frankenstein T-Shirt

March 9, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

March 27, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Beginning Silhouette Cameo: Frankenstein T-Shirt

March 13, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Family Beginning Silhouette Cameo: Frankenstein Book Bag

March 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Events Just for Teens

The Dark Descent of Elizabeth

Frankenstein Book Club

Monday, March 4, 3:30 p.m.

Library Learning Center

Slayer Book Club

Tuesday, March 5, 3:30 p.m.

Dove Library Study Rooms 234 A & B

Frankenstein MadLibs

Tuesday, March 5, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Library Learning Center

Youth and Family Events

Tween Scene

Monday, March 4, 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library Community Room

A weekly program just for tweens in 4th-6th grades. Test your Frankensteinian surgical skills and play Operation.

Tween Scene

Monday, March 11, 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library Community Room

Experiment with electrical current, the scientific discovery that inspired the writer of Frankenstein.

Frankentoys – It's Alive

Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.

Dove Library

Families with children in grades K – 5

Mix and match parts from different toys. What kind of creature is it? Sign-ups required by calling 760-602-2047.

STEAMworks Expo

Saturday, March 16, 2 p.m.

Dove Library

Families with children in grades K – 5

Come experience the shocking fun of STEM programming + Art at STEAMworks Expo!

Tween Scene

Monday, March 18, 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library Community Room

Join the award-winning Carlsbad High School Robotics Team for a fascinating demonstration of this year's robots and engineer your own robot.

Tuesday Afternoon Adventures

Tuesday, March 19, 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library

Families with children in grades K – 3

The award-winning Carlsbad High School Robotics Team will be back for a program for younger children.

Tween Scene

Monday, March 25, 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library

Celebrate Victor Frankenstein by designing, building and racing your own monstrous motorized brush bot.

Tuesday Afternoon Adventures: It's Alive!

Tuesday, March 26, 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library

Families with children in grades K – 3

In the spirit of Frankenstein, bring your own animated automaton to life.

Event titles and themes are subject to change.
For more information on all events in this guide
visit: www.carlsbadlibrary.org

Additional Resources

Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft & Mary Shelley by Charlotte Gordon

In the Shadow of Frankenstein: Tales of the Modern Prometheus (sound recording) by Stephen Jones
Call Number CD IN

Drawing Frankenstein by Greg Roza
Call Number J 743.87 ROZ

Young Frankenstein (videorecording) by Mel Brooks
Call Number DVD COMEDY YOU

Frankenstein: A Cultural History by Susan Tyler Hitchcock
Call Number 823.7 HIT

Frankenstein and the Birth of Science by Joel Levy
Call Number 823.7 SHE

The Poet and the Vampyre: The Curse of Byron and the Birth of Literature's Greatest Monsters by Andrew McConnell Stott
Call Number 820.9145 STO

Frankenstein Young Adult Read-alikes
Teen Frankenstein (sound recording) by Chandler Baker
Call Number YA BAKER, C.

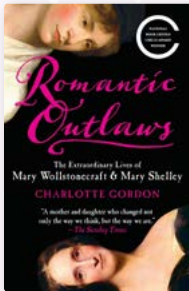
Spare and Found Parts by Sarah Maria Griffin

Monster High by Lisi Harrison
Call Number YA HARRISON, L.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson
Call Number YA PEARSON

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: The Graphic Novel by Gary Reed
Call Number YAGN 741.5973 REE

Gris Grimly's Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus (graphic novel) by Gris Grimly
Call Number YAGN 741.5973 GRI



Discussion Questions

Frankenstein

1. Discuss the novel's shifts in narrative perspective. What is the effect of presenting different characters' viewpoints, especially those of Victor and the monster?
2. What is the motivation behind the creature's vow of "eternal hatred and vengeance to all mankind?"
3. Discuss the presentation of women in the novel. Do Victor and the monster differ in their view of women, and if so, how?

The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein

1. Elizabeth's past is often juxtaposed with her present through flashbacks to childhood moments. What effect does her childhood have on her current conflicts and circumstances.
2. What is the effect of shifting the telling of this story from Victor Frankenstein's perspective to Elizabeth Lavenza's? What is gained? What is lost?
3. In Kiersten White's Author's Note, she shares that "it isn't the answers in stories that are interesting—it is the questions" (p. 289). What questions are readers left with at the end of *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein*?



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